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Methodology and Purpose of Report.

659 654 In order to facilitate the planning and carrying out of the different aspects of the Kamile Rural Improvement Project, an economic and social survey and analysis of the area to be affected by the demonstration projects was suggested in August, 1952. It was decided that the report of these studies should include the general physical characteristics of the area, a description of local governmental institutions, population, farm organization, land utilization, irrigation and crop patterns, livestock, land tenure, crops and livestock, and a physical description of the village including the number and types of buildings and educational facilities.

Unfortunately, basic data with respect to the project area were not available. No official statistics on rural Lebanon exist and the few figures available on population are admittedly incorrect. Although the total land area in each kharaj was made available by the cadastral survey office in Saida there was no information available on land utilization and distribution.

A rational approach to the problem of rural improvement necessitated the procurement of a minimum amount of statistical data. In this report the best available basic facts and figures are presented. Unless otherwise noted, the information was secured from the mukhtar of the village and other leading citizens by field staff enumerators.

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659 The basic data essential for a report of this nature make apparent the necessity for an agricultural census of Lebanon. It should be realized, however, that many of the difficulties encountered in making this survey, such as lack of adequate maps, information on ownership of land, and accurate data on population must be resolved to prepare the way for a successful agricultural census. Until such a census can be made, however, studies based upon samples must be relied upon. As a by-product such studies will aid in obtaining the data necessary for undertaking the first agricultural census in Lebanon.

Any technician using these data must recognize the limitations of the source. Unless otherwise noted, it is felt that the information presented is reasonably reliable.